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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Chong Jin Oon

Serial No.: 09/870,358

Filed: May 30, 2001

Title: DIAGNOSTIC ASSAY

Examiner: B. Forman

Art Unit: 1634

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In response to Examiner's Restriction Requirement mailed July 1, 2002 (Paper No. 8), Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-referenced application in view of the following amendments and remarks.

Please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 8, 9, 11, and 12 without prejudice to their presentation in one or more divisional applications.

REMARKS

The Examiner has issued a restriction requirement alleging that the application claims four separate inventions. Specifically, the Examiner identifies the four inventions being (1) drawn to methods for detecting an HBV-derived target sequence (Group I, Claims 1-7 and 10); (2) drawn to an array of primers (Group II, Claims 8 and 9); (3) drawn to an HBV variant (Group III, Claim 11), and (4) drawn to means for identifying expression products (Group IV, Claim 12).

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.142, Applicant elects Group I (Claims 1-7 and 10) without traverse. Claims 8, 9, 11, and 12 are withdrawn from further consideration by the Examiner under 37 C.F.R. §1.142(b), as being drawn to non-elected inventions. Applicant, however, reserves the right pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.141 to pursue claims to the non-elected inventions in this application in the event a generic claim is allowed.

Applicant also reserves the right pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §121 to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected inventions during the pendency of the present application.

CONCLUSION

Applicant earnestly believes that he is entitled to a letters patent, and respectfully solicits Examiner to expedite prosecution of this patent application to issuance. Should Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned.

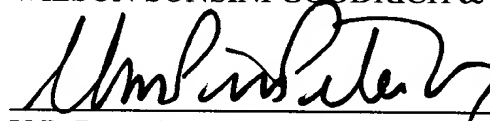
Respectfully submitted,

WILSON SONSINI GOODRICH & ROSATI

Date: _____

7/30/02

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